

FAITH: CHILDISH VERSUS MATURE STATEMENTS

Childish Faith		Mature Faith
1	Good Christians do not have pain or disappointment	God uses our pain and disappointments to make us stronger Christians [Jn.9:3, Man born blind; Ge.50:20, Joseph; Jm.1:2-3]. Innocent people can be affected by sin. They have not done anything wrong, but they are affected by the sins of others.
2	God helps those who help themselves	God helps those who admin their own helplessness [2Th.3:10; Rm.5:6] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Probably the most often quoted phrase that is not found in the Bible. More often God helps those who cannot help themselves, which is what grace is about. God helps the helpless! • Money is the root of all evil. NO it is the love of money.
3	God wants to make me happy	God wants to make us into the image of His Son, Jesus Christ [Rm.8:31-37] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As conquerors we have the enemy (distress, persecution, famine, sword) at our feet. But we are more than conquerors. They are serving me. God works them all together for my good. We tend to look at the circumstances. God does want us to be happy, but He does not do it through circumstances. He does it with Himself. If God is all we have, He is all we need. This is a call for faith, that God is good, and is for us. You and I can either grow accustomed to listening to our feelings, thoughts, and circumstances, letting them control us, or we can be in the habit of taking God at His word.
4	Faith will help us always explain what God is doing	Faith helps us stand under God's sovereignty even when we have no idea what God is doing [Rm.8:28] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We do not believe in God to satisfy our ignorance about the world. Faith does not fill in the blanks. God does not explain things (such as creation, past experience), things explain God. We would have to be God to grasp all that God is doing in our problems. If we push too hard for more detailed explanations from God, we would be overwhelmed.
5	The closer I get to God the more perfect I become	The closer I get to God, the more I become aware of my own sinfulness [Rm.7:14-19] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is true that the Christian grows to reflect more of Christ and less of his own nature. But imagine deluding ourselves into thinking that we have achieved a state of sinlessness. There is a heresy called the second blessing, where we begin a life of sinless perfection. Paul speaks of himself in the present tense in Romans 7.]
6	Mature Christians have all the answers	Mature Christians can wrestle honestly with tough questions because we trust that God has the answers [Pr.3:5-6]
7	Good Christians are always strong	Our strength is in admitting own weakness [2Co.12:9-11; Hb.4:16]
8	We go to church because our friends are there, we have great leaders, and we get something out of it	We go to church because we belong to the body of Christ, and we are committed to love and encourage one another. [Hb.10:24-25] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We cannot practice love in isolation.